



Up and running again

A note from Jill Knight, your new Editor

Hello and welcome to the Newsletter. It is a means of keeping you in touch and of providing information for players, particularly those who do not have the Internet so can't see WBU news on our (vastly improved) website.

The big issue is the decline in Tournament bridge. This is not a new problem - all kinds of efforts have been made to deal with it - but it persists. Numbers are dwindling; some competitions are on the brink of extinction. Some have already gone. Social Bridge is alive and well and new clubs have been started; but some long-established clubs are facing closure or have closed already. You will see in the regional reports how hard people are trying to encourage us to play in tournaments.

We all know it is an age thing. We welcome new members to our clubs with open arms. They are almost all of retirement age, though, and while they enjoy Bridge in their clubs they often have no interest in taking part in National competitions.

Most of our problems stem from the dearth of young bridge players.



Working parents are too busy for family cards, and anyway the TV, the computer and all the out-of-school activities

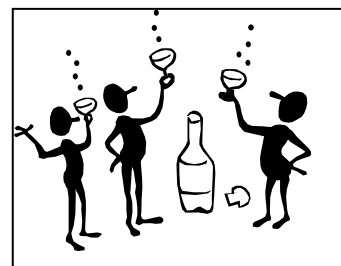
fill their children's lives. It doesn't help if a young person does come to a club only to find that a few people appear to – nay DO – resent their presence. The least we can do is welcome youngsters

into our clubs. They are the future of Bridge.

To address these issues, it has been proposed

that the Executive Council be made smaller so that it can make decisions more quickly. Every member needs to be aware of the proposals, to discuss them and to make their views known before final decisions are made. No one can deny that something needs to be done, but the changes involve the WBU constitution and must therefore be considered carefully.

It is not all doom and gloom, though. All areas are making their competitions more attractive and have managed to



raise numbers. In some areas, Novice events have been introduced. Young players are emerging, particularly in the South. An initiative begun in the West is thriving and producing young players who represent Wales in the Junior Camrose, and in the East a Welsh Bridge Academy has been established in Monmouth School. Many people are offering Bridge lessons to beginners, and Tournament Organisers are working hard, as are all those other wonderful, unidentified people who work year after year in the cause of the best game in the World.

This newsletter is for you. I hope you enjoy reading it. Happy Christmas and good fun with your Bridge!

COMPETITIONS (GO ON, BE A DEVIL) – a message from Sheila Shea

Since my appointment as NTO in the summer I have tried to talk to as many people as possible to find out what they really want from WBU competitions. There is no question that the popularity of competitions has declined while one-day events and two-day congresses have, at best, remained relatively stable.

The view expressed by most players was that they wanted competitions played in a pleasant venue, at times that would accommodate an enjoyable (but not too late) evening meal with sufficient boards played on the Sunday to make the whole competition worthwhile.

I have, for this year at least, struck up an attractive deal with the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells which for the Graded Masters and the Mixed Pairs would give us a comfortable playing room and give players accommodation at £49 per head (sharing) to include a 3-course dinner at 7.45 on the Saturday. In the busy season the deal will go

up to £59 per head. Limited single rooms are also available .

Play will start at 1pm on Saturday and finish by 7.30; with a short break for tea. Sunday's session will start at 10.30 for a 4pm finish.



I know I can't please all players all of the time; I am prepared for criticism, new ideas etc. But please will you all do your best to support the competitions this year so I can truly gauge opinions. I will try to do the best I can but I will need help and encouragement. I think this is the only way forward.

Competitions start with the Graded Masters on January 16th - 17th 2010. This is a perfect event for competition virgins – you play only against pairs of your own or similar rank – so I look forward to seeing *hundreds* of you.

Graded Masters Pairs

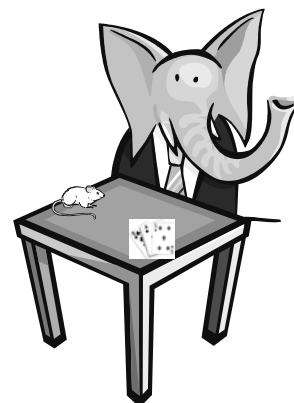
16th & 17th January 2010

Pick on someone your own size: pairs assigned to Sections by ranking – if you are a Club Master we guarantee you will not meet any Grandmasters

- Green-pointed throughout
- Cash prizes for each Section
- Mystery prizes for special category winners (Ladies, Men, Junior, Senior, Novice etc.)

Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6BG

☎ 01597 823 700 ✉ info@metropole.co.uk



National Pairs qualifying heats

If you don't fancy a weekend away, why not ease yourself in to competitive bridge by entering the National Pairs events? Area heats are one-day, two-session events* held in your local area, and usually incorporate the Area Trophy.

National Mixed Pairs Area heats:

6th December 2009

National Open Pairs Area heats:

24th January 2010

*For the National Open Pairs there may be Club heats to qualify for the Area final. Contact your Area Tournament Organiser or Club for details of venues, start times etc.

Heard at the bridge table

A sign of the times:

'I've always been younger than the average age of Bridge players and expect to remain so.'

Bridge players are always right:

Too many years ago I played with the late Roy Wiltshire at the time bidding boxes were being introduced. When he missed my bid Roy, never at a loss for an answer, said:

'Well you put it down very quietly.'

Heard at the Bridge table (two keen players):

'Shall I get you a cup of tea?'

'No, no! I've been drinking all day, what with people dropping in. My husband died this morning and I'm not feeling very clever' (she, too, is long gone now).

Heard at the Bridge table:

'We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing.'

Heard at the Bridge table:

'If I did everything right I wouldn't be playing with you.'



Battle of the sexes:

In a Gold cup match opponents crashed the Ace and Queen:

'Well, when you won the last trick with the King I assumed you denied the Queen!'

'Well, I didn't – obviously – because I had it!'

[Which was the female? Aha! The first!]

Heard at the dinner table:

'I'm a grandma'

'Goodness, I didn't think your children were old enough'

'No, you didn't wait for me to finish. I'm a Grand Master, at last.'



You're NEVER too old!!! - from the WWBA website

Sid Gibbins Salver – 2008: It was certainly a special 'senior moment' when Mildred Trigg-Knight and Ken Jenkins won the Sid Gibbins Salver at the Porthcawl club. Mildred, who had just celebrated her **93rd birthday** was delighted. 'I didn't think we'd done so well', she said, 'but we did seem to be able to get in a lot.' Mildred, an early member of Porthcawl Bridge club, has been playing Bridge for over 70 years. She plays every evening during the week and on Sundays at the Golf Club. She keeps her interest in many things, especially wildlife habitat and butterflies, but says : 'it's the Bridge that keeps the brain going and fit'. Congratulations, Mildred and Ken.



John Raymond Trophy – 2008: 93-year-old Mildred Trigg-Knight has won another competition – the John Raymond Transport Company Trophy, played at Bridgend Club recently. Her partner in the Teams event was John Moore: a spring chicken at 85 years, while the veritable babies in the team were Irene Thomas and Graham Jones. Congratulations to all of you.

The Camrose



The Camrose is a long-standing event in which teams representing Wales, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic compete for supremacy. Before Wales became a separate international country, Welsh players could play for the British team but, unlike our Welsh Rugby team, were rarely selected. Now that Welsh players are venturing abroad, it could be imagined that the Camrose has lost its importance. Far from it. All the best players still vie to be selected.

Over the years friendships have been made across the countries involved, and the competition is hard fought. It is good to watch, too. Some years ago, in Llandudno, when Wales played England, the score was so close that the last couple of boards were crucial. In the Vu-Graph room, we saw Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff (Closed Room) on the screen. We knew that on



the penultimate board, the only way to get a good score was for Tony, defending, to drop his king of hearts under declarer's ace in the hope that his partner had the queen and could get in and lead a club through declarer's king.

John Salisbury was commentating, so we knew how difficult a decision Tony had. We watched him ponder, still as stone, for an awfully long time. It was really nail-biting. The minutes passed. We in the Vu-Graph room were taking bets (or would have, had there been anyone willing to take them). ***Then Tony played his King!*** The roar that went up was so loud that Roy Hobson, the Match Director ran into the Vu-Graph-room in a fury, telling us if we carried on like that he would cancel the board. We *very quietly* watched Patrick on screen, beaming at his partner. He was especially pleased because in all the Camrose matches he had played, though he had played in many winning teams, he had never beaten England.

It was a poignant success, though: Alan Pierce, who had been selected for the team, had died suddenly before the event took place. His widow, Maggie, donated a cup in his memory, to be played for by England and Wales. Wales had played hard to win that special Alan Pierce trophy.

This Year's Trial

The Trial (played over two weekends) for the Home International Camrose Cup was won by *Paul Denning and Patrick Shields*.

The team for the first Camrose weekend will be *Paul Denning/Patrick Shields; Filip Kurbalija/Tim Rees; Gary Jones/Dafydd Jones*. Reserves: *Adrian Thomas/Mike Pownall*.

NPC *John Salisbury*.

We wish you all good play, good company and every success to the team.

My International Debut

by Alan Screen

Being part of Wales's Senior Team for the European Teams Championship, Pau, France in June 2008 was without doubt the high point of my sporting life. Having started playing duplicate bridge in 1998, I had never dreamed of pulling on a Welsh shirt. Now, nearly ten years later, here I was.

At the Seniors' opening ceremony Wales was the only country for whom the national anthem was played; the rest had a popular song (I forget what the English song was) so the seven of us, who had been expecting a Tom Jones number, proudly stood to attention and sang as best we could. The venue was a former palace, delightful but for the feeble air-conditioning - it was a very hot June.

My baptism at a bridge table with screens (standard at International events, to protect players against accusations of passing unauthorised information) was not spectacular. Our team did not perform particularly well despite the encouragement of Non-Playing Captain Mike "Mikey" Close. One hand, however, gave me great pleasure, especially as it was against the "Sais" [*For those of you who don't speak Welsh, that means 'English'; the word is derived from 'Saxon'. Ed.]* The last board of a 16 board match at Vulnerable v Non-Vulnerable:

I held ♠ A K Q, ♥ Q J 8, ♦ A 6 4 2, ♣ K 6 3

As dealer I opened 1♣ (min. length 2 and <20 points). Lefty bid 3♦ and pard doubled. My rebid was 3NT and partner leapt to 6♣.

The opening lead was ♦Q and dummy was revealed:

♠ 9 6 3
♥ A 7 6 2
♦ K
♣ Q J 10 8 5

Doesn't look too bad but, hang on ... I have to lose the ace of trumps, but while I can discard one heart on the ♦A, what of the other losing heart?

Trumps were drawn - they broke 4-1 - and the ♦A and three rounds of spades cashed leaving these cards:

♠ none
♥ A 7 6
♦ none
♣ 8
■
♠ none
♥ Q J 8
♦ 6
♣ none

At this point I had a reasonable count of the hand. West had started with a singleton diamond and four clubs; both opponents had followed to three rounds of spades; so East held a singleton or doubleton ♥ (East had discarded a small heart on the ♦A, concealing the 13th spade). I needed West to hold ♥K and decided I had to assume it was not singleton, it being more likely that East held the 13th spade and had kept it to conceal the count. Also, West must not cover my ♥Q or J when I led it towards the dummy. Which card should I lead, the Q or J? I went in to the tank and came out with the queen, reasoning that the queen was challenging him to cover whereas the jack would look as if I was trying to sneak one through. Whether my reasoning was right or not I have no idea ... or care! West played low without thought and I played low from dummy and closed my eyes. When I opened them I found my ♥Q had held. Now I put forward my ♥8 dropping West's king! Lefty said nothing but Righty said "well played" (that was nice).

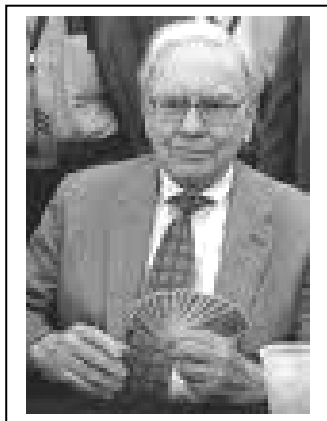
As the cards lay it would have been correct for West to cover my queen, but he didn't know that was missing the ♥10 (it makes no difference what he does) or ♥9 (if he covers he gives me a finesse on the way back and I suspect that was why he played low).

I am told that there was a little cheer in the VueGraph room from Mikey and the sitting-out pair when the result of that board flashed up. We still lost the match.

I am still chuffed to have "pulled one off" against a pair who were in the England Team that won the Seniors World Championship in Sao Paulo this year, and thankful to the selectors for allowing me to be in our Welsh team.

THE YANKS ARE COMING

You will have heard that the Ryder Cup golf match between Europe and America is coming to Wales next September, the biggest sporting event ever held in the Principality, but did you know that the Warren Buffett Cup bridge match between the two will also be held in Wales, two weeks before the golf match?



The Buffett Cup is a recent adjunct to the Ryder Cup Golf tournament. When the inaugural event was held in Dublin in 2006, USA won the bridge and Europe the golf. Two years later in Louisville, the

results were reversed: Europe won the bridge and USA the golf.

As with the golf, the bridge teams have 12 on each side with a non-playing captain to determine the line-up. I have heard murmurings of current world champions Bob Hamman and Zia Mahmood gracing the event and you can't get two more famous Bridge players than that. One difference between the golf and bridge is that the bridge teams must contain at least two women. The world's top woman player, Sabine Auken of Germany, is expected to be in the European team.

One thing is for sure, it will be very exciting to watch, and it is indicative of the importance of this event that all six tables will be covered on Bridge-Base Online throughout the four days of the match.

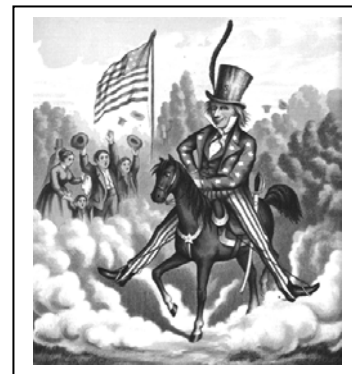
Of course, the best place to watch the great players will be at the event itself, at Miskin Manor near Cardiff, where there will be a Vu-Graph room and commentators to explain the bidding and play.

The WBU (you!) will not be expected to spend one penny towards the event, but we

have agreed to lend our equipment and will provide volunteers to help make the event one for the Bridge world to applaud. The Ryder Cup supports the Bridge by allowing the organiser of The Buffett Cup to allocate tickets to Patrons or Sponsors of the Bridge match. If you know of any company or person keen to get hold of Ryder Cup tickets, please put them in touch with Patrick Jourdain.

So, volunteers and spectators: if you want to be part of the excitement, put the date in your diary –13th - 16th September 2010.

The organiser for the match is our own Patrick Jourdain. Please contact him if you are willing to help or need more information: pdjourdain@hotmail.com and have a look at the website for up-to-date information: www.buffetcup.com



Did you know?

The WBU is offering free website design and hosting for clubs? Jeff Smith's scoring programs are now customised for Welsh use and will import the membership listing file. It is hoped that we shall get automatic uploading of Masterpoints in the near future.



Area news *(This will be a regular feature, so make sure you get your news to Jill Knight)*

East Wales

*report from Chairman,
Mike Best*



In this area we have noticed that the tournament scene is declining while the social scene is thriving, so we have tried to give Eastern events more appeal by providing free buffets to give an opportunity for socialising and to encourage people to stay for the prize-giving, to 'round off' events with some appreciation of players' successes. So far we have done this with the Stan Berger Open Pairs Championship and the Louis Lemon Teams Championship. We shall do the same for the Area Mixed Pairs on December 6th.

At National level we have successfully organised the Welsh Foursomes and the August one-day events at Cwmbran. Our objective was to try to arrest the 20% decline in attendances with experimental changes, such as earlier finishes, shorter breaks, a drinks station, greater amount and spread of prizes across the board and more extensive advertising. The early signs are encouraging.

With so many events crowding the calendar we have combined the East Wales Mixed Pairs Championship with the Area qualifier for the National Mixed Pairs.

Mike Best has agreed to organise the Welsh and Cambria Cups, the inter-area team events that have been struggling recently. In spite of his great efforts, the Welsh Cup has increased by a third, but the Cambria Cup by only one team. It is an improvement, so the signs are promising. Good luck to Mike.

Latest Results

EWBA One-Day Swiss Pairs

Steve Tomlinson and Ralph Smith

EWBA One-Day Swiss Teams

Peter Goodman, Patrick Jourdain, Diane Kurbalija and Filip Kurbalija

WBU Simultaneous Pairs

Thurs/Fri) Eric Favager and Mike Downey

INVITATION PAIRS

Dafydd Jones and Gary Jones

WELSH FOURSOMES

Terry Walsh, Brid Kemple, Peter Goodman and Filip Kurbalija

CLARET CUP 2009/210

Barrivale – Joan Jenkins & Noelle Bond

Penarth – Eric Favager & John Salisbury

Rhiwbina – Bill Jones

Sully – Mr and Mrs J Sparkes

Old Hall – Terri Pollard

Chepstow – Peter Smith & Jane Rhodes;
Grace & John Martin

Mid Wales

*report from Chairman,
Mike Tedd*



We now have ten clubs in Mid-Wales, Knighton, Rhayader and Llandrindod Wells having joined in the last two or three years.

Last year saw the revival of the Mid-Wales league with two divisions. This year we have fourteen teams, and we have split the second division into West and East Division to reduce travelling distances.

July saw the Mid-Wales congress, held in the excellent venue of the Metropole in Llandrindod Wells. This drew 39 teams, just two down on 2008. It was well-organised and went well. The innovation of extra events for those teams doing poorly in the Swiss by Sunday lunchtime was well received.

The Aberystwyth Congress remains a friendly and enjoyable event, but attendance has been disappointing in the last few years.

Mid-Wales hosts the Perry & Spickett inter-area teams next year and this will also be held in the Metropole.

The President, Alan Screen, has purchased his own duplimate machine, primarily for use in Mid Wales. This is most welcome.

Good News!! The Aberystwyth congress will, henceforth, be *green-pointed*. We expect the prize money to be substantial. We look forward to seeing the old friends who have supported us for so many years and we hope to welcome new faces at the Congress – last full weekend in July 2010.

Latest Results

Mid Wales Congress July 2009

- 1st Filip Kurbalija, Diane Kurbalija, Jill Casey and Paul Denning (183 VPs)
2nd Mike Tedd, John Salisbury, Mike Best and Mark Roderick (175)
3rd Jim Grant, Stefan Lindfors, Andrew Thompson and Mike Fletcher (171)

Abersystwyth Congress August 2009

Mixed Pairs – Malcolm Mitchell & Judy Mitchell

Friday Open Pairs – Bob Ainger & George Novak

Saturday Open Pairs – Peter Milewski & Ian Haston

Championship Pairs – Lee Collier & Eric Hartland

Consolation Pairs – Anthony Stephens & Catherine Stephens

Swiss Teams – Chris Blackman, Monica Corbett-Edwards, Les Mann, Sal Leech

North Wales

report from Chairman, Allan James

This year it was our turn to host the Perry and Spickett competitions. Our Treasurer,



John Wain, found a very suitable venue in Prestatyn, the Beaches Hotel, at reasonable cost. The playing suite was very good. Our teams were not as successful as in previous years, but it was gratifying to see the events run smoothly in a friendly atmosphere.

Our two main congresses, the Swiss Teams in Holywell and the Swiss Pairs in Llandudno, were very well attended. Their success was the result of a lot of hard work from Jean Hand and Margaret Smith. We thank and congratulate them both. There were 56 tables at the Swiss Pairs WBU congress. Jean also ran the WBU one-day Swiss Pairs and managed to get a waiting list!

The North again provided the Welsh venue for the Portland Pairs and it was a most enjoyable event for all taking part. Beth and Barry Wennell were 18th over the whole of the UK. They were also 2nd in the Swiss Pairs congress. They have been our most successful pair this year, in Northern events.

John Wain started a small congress two years ago for Bridge players who do not play in WBU or NWBA competitions. He gives lots of prizes and everyone gets a specially printed score card and pen as mementos. It is strictly No Fear. They pay ten pounds, to cover the cost of a director, and they bring their own food, so there are never any complaints there! He has had 18 and 16 tables. Congratulations to him on enabling potential WBU competitors to put their toes in the water.* Sheila Shea has become National Tournament Organiser, and we wish her every success in her new responsibilities.

**This year's congress is on 21st January*

Latest results

WBU Llandudno Swiss Pairs (12 x 8-board matches) - very close at the top):

1st: Alan Bailey and Jette Bailey (176)

2nd equal: Nick Woodcock and Sue Woodcock and Barry Wennell and Beth Wennell (173)

NWBA Autumn One-Day Swiss Pairs:

Eddie Thornton and Ben Beever

WBU Simultaneous Pairs:

Monday – Paddy Murphy and Beth Wennell

Tues/Wed - Olwen Brown and Pam Edwards

West Wales

report from Chairman, Chris Davies

Jennifer Wardell, our ATO, has done a marvellous job in resurrecting the Area Men's Pairs (gone up from 0 to 11). The Porthcawl Congress and the AGM events included a Novice section. Our AGM event was very well attended with 100+ people. Irene Thomas did an excellent job with the Porthcawl Congress.



Continues on next page

The Porthcawl club organised a hugely successful Bridge Cafe day of free drop-in seminars. Over 100 attended. Sky HD TV, as part of their advertising campaign, invited Swansea and Bridgend Bridge clubs to send several pairs to a free, all-day masterclass run by Glyn Liggins; the arrangements were clearly made by someone with no understanding of bridge, but it turned out successfully. Everyone was impressed by Glyn's input, so much so that we are looking at the possibility of bringing Glyn back to run sessions for larger numbers.

Newport (Pemb.) have changed their venue; they now play at the old school at Dinas Cross, Wednesday evening, starting at 6.45

We would like to express our sadness at the death of Ann Dolan, in June. For many years she did an excellent job as the WWBA



Treasurer. In the new competition for novices at the AGM, pairs will play for a trophy dedicated to her memory. We also report the sudden death of Dave Griffiths, in October. It will be a great loss to Porthcawl; he was such a good-humoured Director and he put so much into the game he loved.

Latest results

Porthcawl Congress

Ladies' Pairs: (Phyllis Rowe Trophy) Aoife McHale and Gilly Clench

Men's Pairs: (Max Powell Trophy) Patrick Jourdain and Gary Jones

Mixed Pairs: Alan Williams and Rona Goldenfield

Red Dragon Pairs: Patrick Jourdain and MikeVail

Little Dragon Pairs: Chris Smart and Jackie Davies

Consolation Pairs: Judy Petran, Joe Petran

Senior Mixed Pivot Teams: Colin Thomas, Lavinia Thomas, Peter Milewski, Colin Nash

Championship Teams: David Jones, Gordon Roxburgh, Ron Davies and Alan Oddie

Sker Trophy Consolation Teams: Neville Shorrick, Martyn Moxley, Pam Crisp and Jennifer Baker

Novice Event: Pat Smith and Valerie Legge

Friday Open Pairs: Karen and Malcolm Pryor

Area Competitions

Vince Bevan Trophy Mary Moore and Di Jones

Area Pairs Ladies': Wendy Thornton and Beryl Warner

Men's: John Gardener and Phil Roberts



Winners of the Mixed Pivot Teams: Colin and Lavinia Thomas, Peter Milewski (+ Colin Nash) with WBU President Alan Screen



Gilly Clench and Aoife McHale, winners of the Ladies' Pairs, with Chief TD Jim Proctor

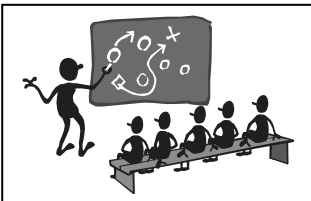
CHANGING LIVES

Why do people want to play Bridge? What makes someone decide to teach it?

Gayda (Gay) Young has been a member of Benllech club since it was founded, and when the founder of Beaumaris club decided to go duplicate, she was able to use her knowledge to help him, and then ran the club when he was unable to do it any longer. For several years the people who played there enjoyed duplicate Bridge on a social level, but the numbers remained small. Gay decided to advertise in the local press, to try and get more players. At the same time, a new over-50s social club was starting, and the organisers asked Gay would she be interested in teaching Bridge if there was a demand. She agreed and went along and introduced herself and talked about the game of Bridge.

The response was good. Fifteen people enrolled in her class. Their ages varied enormously but their reasons for wanting to play Bridge were almost identical: they wanted to extend their social life. Some did already play, but used the 'asking club' and wanted to learn Acol. There was a rubber Bridge club in town that some wanted to join; others simply wanted to learn and meet people.

Gay had no experience of teaching Bridge, but her professional experience in business management and, later, social work, both of which involved staff training, honed her skill in communicating with people and encouraging them.



By the end of the first year not one had dropped out, so she continued for another year.

The group comprised 'a few bright sparks' who would eventually play duplicate and who, indeed, now do so; some who had reached the stage where they were happy to play together at home, or at the rubber Bridge club, with the new friends they had made, and a couple of very elderly people who had enjoyed the lessons, but who would never, sadly, quite get the hang of it. Gay, quite

rightly, felt that she had done all she could for her group, and ended the lessons.

The teaching didn't end, though.

She began another group some time later and, coincidentally, she was approached by someone from Benllech who had started an over-fifties club. Now she took on two separate groups, on different nights. The Beaumaris lessons had started before the Benllech ones and the learners wanted to go to both lots of lessons, and Gay had to say no, for obvious reasons.

I asked her how she managed to deal with fourteen or fifteen people at once. 'My husband comes along as well and is a great support, and a volunteer from Benllech club also helps when she is free. Both groups seem fairly brightish. It's very hands on, but I do use a flip-chart to make specific points.' I asked was she aware of materials offered by the EBU and WBU and she said she had found a very good site online – 'No Fear Bridge' from where she purchased a book for teaching bidding and scoring, by Leigh Harding, that she has found invaluable. She did find an EBU book but it was too advanced for her purposes.

'What do you get out of all this work, Gay?' I asked. 'When they tell me I have changed their lives, I am delighted,' she replied. 'They have found new friends with whom they can share many a pleasant social hour or two. Many of these people were lonely and now they are not. And an extra bonus is that we have more members at our Duplicate club.'

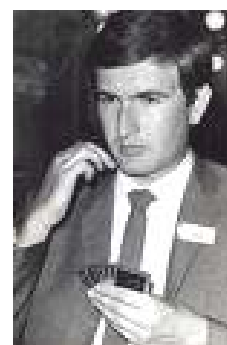
Well, Gay, you can't say fairer than that.

(Gwen Hurst, Wrexham, teaches people via the U3A and now has special sessions for novices at the Bridge club. Our Chairman also has 'his ladies' and reports good progress.)



Better late than never

by Mike Tedd



The belated 64-board final of the 2009 Welsh Cup was held on 30th October at the Gwent Bridge Academy in Newport. 6-person teams are a big advantage in earlier rounds, but when all 12 players were determined to play the final, arranging it was a nightmare!

All of the finalists have played for Wales on many occasions; a husband and wife (Filip and Diane Kurbalija) were on opposite sides. Filip's team took a small early lead, but Adrian Thomas's team won the next five sets of eight to put the result beyond doubt. The final margin was 159-110, reversing the result when the two squads had last met in the final. The standard of play was generally high. Several swings happened when Adrian's team judged better in competitive auctions, such as when Diane held ♠ - , ♥ K 7 4 2, ♦ A 6 5 3 2, ♣ A J 8 5. Fourth in hand at favourable vulnerability, she heard the opponents bid 1♠ - 4♠. In the other room her hand passed, but Diane doubled. 5♦ was a good save, and pushed her opponents to 5♠ down one.

On another hand, Adrian held ♠ 3, ♥ A 6 3, ♦ K 10 9 4 3, ♣ A J 4 2. Again fourth in hand non-vulnerable, Adrian heard 1♠, 3♥ from partner, 3♠ on his right. He bid FIVE ♥, which can be made, pushing opponents to 5♠, again one down. In the other room this hand fancied its defensive chances in a slightly different auction so sold out to 4♠ making.

The best play hand of the match fell late on to a member of the losing team, Patrick Jourdain:

Dlr: East	♠ 6 4 2	
Vul: NS	♥ 2	
	♦ A K 7 5 4 3	
	♣ J 9 2	
♠ 10 9		♠ K Q 8 5 3
♥ A Q 6 4 3		♥ 9 7 5
♦ 10 9 8 2		♦ J
♣ 10 3		♣ K Q 8 7
	♠ A J 7	
	♥ K J 10 8	
	♦ Q 6	
	♣ A 6 5 4	

At the other table NS stopped in a quiet 2♦ making nine tricks for 110. Jourdain chose to overcall 1NT and was raised to the good-

looking game, which is straightforward if diamonds break.

West	North	East	South
Shields	Ratcliff	Denning	Jourdain
-	-	1♠	1NT
2♥	3NT*		

All pass

*3NT denied a heart stop (North goes via a *Lebensohl* 2NT with a heart stop)

Against South's 3NT, West led the ♠10 to the queen which held. A switch to the ♥9 was covered by jack and queen. Now West switched to a low diamond, attempting to cut communication with dummy. Patrick won with the queen and played a high heart. West won and played a second diamond to the ace. Patrick cashed the ♦K discarding a club, finessed the ♠J, and cashed one good heart leaving this ending:

	♠ none	
	♥ none	
	♦ 7 5	
♠ none	♣ J 9 2	♠ K 8
♥ 6 4		♥ none
♦ 9		♦ none
♣ 10 3	♠ A	♣ K Q 8
	♥ 10	
	♦ none	
	♣ A 6 5	

Declarer now cashed his last heart throwing a diamond from dummy. What can East discard?

If he threw a club, after ace and another club, the last two tricks would be won by the spade ace and a good club. So Paul threw a spade. But now Patrick cashed the ace of spades to remove East's exit card and then led a low club. When West played a small club Patrick put in the nine. East won and had to return a small club which ran round to dummy's jack.

The well-deserved winners: Adrian Thomas, Peter Goodman, Paul Denning, Patrick Shields, Jill Casey and Diane Kurbalija. Runners-up: Filip Kurbalija, Tim Rees, Mike Tedd, John Salisbury, Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff.

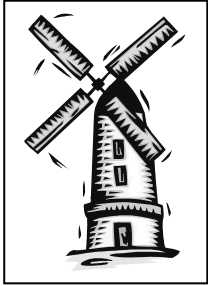
[The photo was a lucky web find. Ed.]

The Round Knight of the Table *by Jill Knight*



I play regularly in two local clubs and am lucky enough to have a lovely partner in each. The first hasn't played in competitions for many years; the second is quite keen on the idea, but so far the calendar clashes with other things. I don't mind, although sometimes I do miss the competitive scene.

But then I look back and remember ...let's call him Sir Gawain, for in his head, that is who he was, though I see him more as Don Quixote.



He played one Monday night, thirty years ago at our little club - and in our rural area a stranger is of absorbing interest. Anyway, he was hard to miss. He was, erm, corpulent. When the session finished he approached me, pint in hand, and asked had my partner psyched. Said partner was an elderly, Polish man who played Polish system, even before the Poles invented it. 'Psych?' (I saw it in my head as 'sike') Hmmm, intriguing. Is *that* what they call opening a weak No Trump with 15 points?

Sir G was a roving test engineer, working locally for a couple of weeks, and he needed a partner for the Thursday session in a nearby town so I agreed to play. The evening went well. We played in a damp, bare hall, but my Monday partner, having clocked Sir G's fondness for the taste of hops, had brought him some beer. He was impressed by the kindness. He asked if I would play when he was next in the area, and of course I said 'Yes'. He said I had lots of potential, but needed to learn a comprehensive system. This became his quest.

Thus began our wanderings, near and far. One night, driving to a fairly distant club down winding roads, he went through, not Multi 2♦ (which we had recently addressed), but a *defence* to it, 'Killarney', which was rather intricate. I could see no logic in it, only complications. We suddenly realised that we had missed the turning. He had eleven points on his licence and we were late, so I had to take Rocinante's reins, sitting up straight to see through the windscreen. He pointed out that I could drive faster because if we were stopped for speeding that would be OK.

Another time, he took a fancy to my new car. We were on our way to Porthcawl. He kept saying 'I'll drive, if you like' and I kept saying 'No. I am fine'. Some chunterings later I let him drive. Two minutes after this, along the Brecon by-pass, he wrote the car off. We were taken to hospital and, having been cleared, took a taxi to Porthcawl where we won a cup.

He lived a great distance away from me so it was only a couple of times a year, when he was back working in our area, that we played in local clubs. This was the only practice we got, so whenever we arranged to meet up for a bridge event he would say 'Get there early so we can go over our system'. It was quite a while before I realised that his intention was to teach me some new bidding thing just before we started playing. Despite my protestations, he insisted. After several years, we had a comprehensive, comprehensible, but slightly out-of-date, system. Then he started psyching.

But we did have our successes, in spite of the fact that if I disagreed with him about a bid, he would become very cross. I once told him that when he got angry I could see sparks coming out of his head. He was amazed at this because, he said, he could *feel* them. So I tried not to argue with him, even though he was often unreasonable and, very occasionally, downright wrong. People used to ask why I put up with him. I would say, 'Well, he has taught me such a lot, and away from the table he is a nice person.'

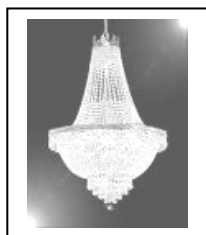
Wherever we played, we were late. He had no concept of time. Coming back from Eastbourne one time, he wanted to go and have a look at Arundel Castle. This was after our stopping for coffee and his reading the Sunday papers. I was driving. He fell asleep for most of the several hundred miles back. I was still glowing at reaching the Championship Pairs final, playing against the Big Names; people I had only read about in the Bridge magazines. Of course we didn't win, but at the end of one round, when Sir G berated me over something I had done, our opponent, the late Irving Rose, gently put him

in his place by giving a brief analysis of the play and explaining why I had done the right thing. I was enlightened; Sir G was quiet.

Life was full of incident whenever we played. Like the night he put his foot on the brake going round a bend on a dark country road and his aforementioned car slid, in a very stately way, knocked down a bollard on a central reservation and at there, immovable. Another taxi required. When the police eventually caught up with him the next day, he told them he had swerved to avoid a rabbit. The simple truth would have sufficed. At work, the following week, he got cartoons of rabbits on his desk. That incident accounted for several of the points on his licence.

His car was always breaking down. No wonder he was a member of the RAC. That's how my written-off car returned from Brecon, along with the two of us, after he wrote it off. I told him that one day the RAC would sack him and, eventually they did. I am ashamed to say that I laughed when he told me, outraged, that they wouldn't renew his membership.

Then there was the night in Llangollen when there was a sudden whooshing sound in the playing-room and, looking up, we saw a huge chandelier plunging from above. It knocked an old lady's head sideways and she passed out.† When she came to, the ambulance had arrived, but she insisted on carrying on. 'I have come here to play bridge', she said.



Another time in Llangollen, as a new round was starting, a respected International player approached our table, white-faced, and said to one of our opponents, 'I think this is yours' and threw a full pint of beer in his face. The beer-sodden man refused to let me call the Director. I only agreed not to when he told us (after further questioning from us) that 'in a way' it was his fault; on the previous round he had thrown his whisky in the International's face. Later, the beer-thrower apologised to us and explained how it had all started. He had certainly been provoked. After the whisky-throwing, he had gone to his team-mates' table and asked one of them for his beer, promising to buy him another. For a man who didn't

drink, I must say his aim was brilliant. Perhaps he played cricket at school.

One night, just before the last round started, Sir G went to get his beloved pint (to be fair, he never drank alcohol when playing bridge; or at least not until the last round.) He placed his glass lovingly on the table, whereupon it jumped up and soaked the very elderly opponent from head to toe. His suit was ruined. I kept waiting for partner to apologise till, in the end, I said, 'Aren't you going to say something?' His response was a fairly agonised, 'I've waited all night for that pint!' The old man replied for him and said it wasn't his fault. Someone told us later that the nice old man was G C H Fox, the Bridge writer.

Another time - Porthcawl again - a lady came to our table and asked what system we played. My partner, who was musing over another idiocy of mine on the previous hand, said, 'The Roobish System'. When her partner arrived, she told her, very seriously 'They are playing the Roobish System', but they didn't ask anything else about it.

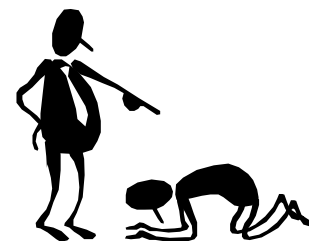
At the Spanish Championships he was playing with Joe Tarlow when the old man quietly died at the table. Sir G was truly saddened by this.

He had hundreds of such stories: going to play in the Gold Cup against a top English team in a house that was – well, let's say rather unkempt. I did notice that the number of used undergarments on the bathroom floor doubled each time he told a new audience this story. I think he used to get bored with his stories, and 'enhanced' them for his own entertainment. He was a good raconteur, though.

He retired from his wandering with work, but we did play in one or two events a year until arthritis made driving too difficult for him. He was last seen being wheeled on to a plane, no doubt bound for bridge adventures somewhere.

†[Note from Laura] This lady's husband had a depression in his skull, no doubt the result of some medical procedure. We rather meanly used to refer to him as "The Man with the Hole in his Head". After this incident at Llangollen we used, even more meanly, to refer to her as "The Woman with the Matching Hole in her Head". Incidentally, Mike Close had just that very minute vacated the chair. He's quite a bit taller than the game old lady.

“DI-RECTOR!”



Every game has rules. Bridge is no exception.

Clubs affiliated to the WBU must ensure that players observe the rules. There is a book, revised from time to time, explaining the rules of play and detailing the penalties for whichever of the rules has been broken. It would help every player to be aware of them.

Most of the time people do the wrong thing accidentally, especially when they lead or bid out of turn. The laws, however, deal with the penalty and not the reasons for the infraction. There are no extenuating circumstances.

It is the Director's job to look at the situation, tell whoever was responsible what the penalty is, and see that the law is obeyed. He should always have the book with him, and read out the relevant penalty, making sure that the person concerned understands.

Most people learn the rules by breaking them. It is a good way to learn because having to pay a penalty tends to make one remember not to do it again. Rules generally arise because of repeated behaviour that damages opponents. This is why hesitation or asking about a *particular* bid are deemed to need rules. In 95% of cases no harm is intended towards the opponents, but to protect players from being damaged there are rules to stop them

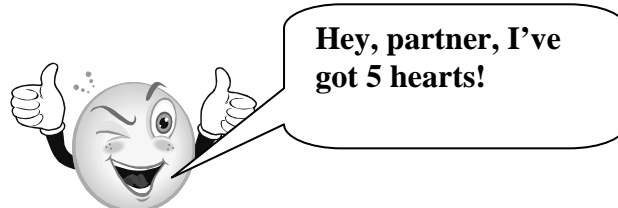


happening: the Stop card before a jump bid rule, and rules for asking about the bidding. One old man who used to play at our club would deliberately hesitate when

opponent led up to their ace-queen, to make them think the finesse wasn't working. We soon learnt to finesse safely when he did that, and not to finesse when he played in tempo and smoothly. He was hoist with his own petard. Another player put his wife through new systems all the time to try and fox his opponents. When asked what his latest 2♦ opener meant, he wouldn't tell until he was told he had to. His response was, 'What's the point in playing different systems if you have to tell your opponents what the bids mean?' At

least his wife was able to keep up with his system after that.

People new to duplicate bridge will find some of the rules strange and probably unnecessary, but after a while they will begin to understand that they are there to protect people from being damaged by their opponents. People can give too much information without meaning to. For



example, your partner opens the bidding by taking out the Stop card and then ponders for some time before putting down his bid. Unauthorised Information has been given! Your partner has a good hand, but is not sure what to bid. Has he got a long suit or is it a balanced hand? Well, if so his long suit can't be that long, or his balanced hand is not very balanced. Everybody is thinking about opener's hand now. The opponents are allowed to take advantage of that knowledge, but you are not. Your partner should have done his pondering before taking out the Stop card; his 'hesitation' should come after the complete bid is made, to allow your opponent time to think. Has he left his Stop card down for 8-10 seconds before removing it? If he hasn't, he is breaking the rules. Yet how many people do leave their Stop card down for the required length of time? So many of them take it out, make their bid and immediately take the Stop card away, which is breaking the rules.

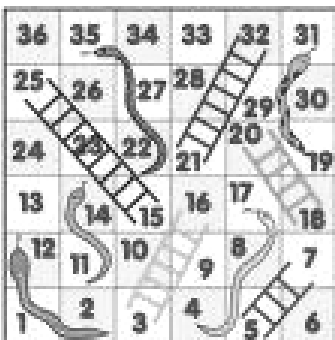
It all seems very complicated, *but the rules are there to maintain equity*. For example, if you revoke and thereby get more tricks than the rest of the room, your mistake has given you a top and all the other players sitting at the same polarity a bottom. That just isn't fair and that is why there is a penalty.

Never feel that you have sinned if you break a rule. The word 'penalty' is a bit daunting, but if you think of it as a means of ensuring no

one is damaged, you can relax. No one should overlook infringements because the infractor is inexperienced. Being kind to them is being unkind to everyone else, so just be tactful and friendly and call the Director. He will, equally tactfully, sort it out to everyone's satisfaction.

Ideally, every club should have two qualified Directors, especially if they are playing. One can go when the other is in the middle of a hand, and if there is a problem two heads are better than one. Directors must always take the law book to the table and always be seen to be judging correctly. It is better to leave a difficult problem till later than to make a wrong decision. This means writing down the bidding, contract and lead as an *aide-memoire*. The Director should always be pleasant but firm.

Players should never try to sort out a problem themselves. It is quicker, and less stressful, to call the Director. The person who calls the Director should explain the situation. Everybody else should say nothing until the Director asks them if they agree with what was said. If they cannot agree, the Director will take down all the particulars and make a judgement later. This is why, if you think you have been damaged by an opponent during the bidding, you should call the Director *before* the play starts, to 'reserve your rights'. If you then decide you have been damaged, you can recall him. It is no use waiting to see the traveller before you make your statement.



In all situations, just remember it is a game you are playing. Just as you can't go up a snake and down a ladder, so you can't break the rules in bridge. If you follow the procedure of calling the Director and everyone is friendly and polite to each other, then you can get on without a stain on your character and just enjoy the game.

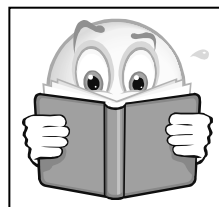
Odds and Ends



Neville is organising **Director training** and arranging courses, led by Mike Amos, condensed into three sessions at Club Director level. Others already directing may wish to attend only the final

Assessment session to obtain their formal qualification. Please put your name down as soon as possible. It would be a shame to miss this opportunity.

We have lots of info and help for people who want to **teach Bridge**. Contact Neville who will give you all the information you need. If you want to teach in a school or in a young group of your own, he can give you useful contacts for help and advice. Anyone can teach Bridge if they are committed enough, but there are legal procedures to be followed when planning to teach young people. See the WBU 'Youth' page or contact Neville.



There are still **WBU Handbooks** lying around in clubs. If you haven't had yours, get it while it's still there.

WBU Playing Cards: Neville is ordering playing cards bearing a WBU logo. Available will be top quality five-bar Duplimating cards and standard cards, both at a discount; AND the WBU is subsidising them for WBU clubs. They should be available in a few



weeks, so if you want to take advantage of the offer, put your orders in to Neville now.



Promotions from 21st June 2008 to 14th May 2009

Local Master		Kath Pratt	NT	Margaret Jones	LP
Phil Bowers	MG	Martin Rich	CAS	Ann Macdougall	BV
Brian Griffiths	H	Nesta Thomas	R	Frances Masters	MH
Kay Taylor	K	Tina Torkington	T	Elen Pierce	S
Tony Taylor	K	Trevena Vincent	T	Christine Redman	MON
Derek Thew	LD	Roy Wallwork	W	Jonathan Richards	BR
Jan Vanringelenstein	H	Rebecca Watkins	MB	Margaret Richards	K
Club Master		Margaret Williams	OH	Valerie Richards	MER
Klaus Aehlig	S	Berwyn Woolnough	LW	Herbie Rowley	CD
Jane Beale	GA	Sandra Woolnough	LW	Sara Sabir	PT
Mike Beale	GA	Thelma Wright	F	Beryl Sales	PV
Clive Case	GA	District Master		Harry Starr	MG
Brian Chadwick	S	Margaret Algar	MB	David Stewart	S
Sam Fellows	PN	James Boulton	GA	Brian Summerfield	BRE
Elizabeth Hale	DM	David Bussey	PD	Susan E Thomas	NP
James Harris	MB	Gwenda Davies	LP	Martin Thorne	F
Sylvia Hilton	RY	Martin Davies	BRE	Byron Williams	S
Anne Hughes	OH	Peter Davies	S	John Worlock	SU
Charlotte Ingham	DM	Anne Ellis	Y	Gillian Young	WS
Gladys Irvine	T	Donald Ellis	PW	Master	
Adrian Miscusan	L	Susan Enfield	T	Keith H Butt	S
Derrick Nolan	BEN	Jennifer Harris	CD	Helen Caldicott	CRI
Phil Nuttall	DEE	David M Jones	BEN	Belinda Davies	BRE
Irene Parker	DM	Ellen Lane-Cousin	VOG	Tony Davies	BRE
Olwen Parry	CN	Judy Lewis	T	Michael Dent	AG
Hywel Probert	T	Sean Macdougall	BV	Colin Easterbrook	OH
Mary Savage	LP	Suppiah Navaratnam	W	Gwynant Edwards	A
John Spottiswoode	R	Barrie Phillips	PT	Vernon George	MER
Herrick Westcott	GA	Shirley Powell	PN	Brian Griffiths	R
Joan Westcott	GA	Glenda Roberts	OH	Mary Hobbis	MON
Alun Williams	P	Ashleigh Scrimshaw	MH	Betty Hollis	PN
Kath Williams	F	Jackie Stevenson	CD	Susan Jackson	M
Area Master		Nigel Symons Jones	LP	Eric E Johnson	D
Kaye Bennett	NT	Mike Taylor	T	Charlotte Jones	MON
Linda Blunt	MON	Alan Thomas	R	Eddie Jones	PC
Dawn Bowers	MG	County Master		Jacquie Jones	F
Dorothy Bugden	P	Jean Akers	PN	David Lovering	R
Deborah Davies	PT	Joan Andrews	PN	Stella Pink	RY
Roger Draper	S	Joan Boothe	S	Mary Rees	MB
John Edwards	OH	Roger Davey	WS	Phil Roberts	NP
Elinor Ellis	PW	Barbara Dawes	SU	Vera Ross	CN
Jane Field	LP	Anne Edwards	A	Patricia Scott	MG
Bob Hughes	MB	C Stuart Evans	MG	Marion Shewell	AR
Ainsley Jones	S	Angela Gilbert	C	Joyce Sprake	F
Peter Knott	LP	Julia Griffiths	L	Jean Thomas	PN
Terry Margolis	NT	Richard Hughes	C	R Mike Thomas	Y
Mary Palin	W	Glan James	L	Gary Williams	P
Annette Phillips	W	Gareth John	L	Vivian Woolley	BEN
Tony Phillips	W	Dian Jones	P		
Pam Powditch	PN	John Jones	BRE		

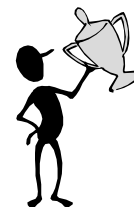
Advanced Master		Reg Mealings	WS	Allan Lewis	MG
Sara Bartlett	OH	Jill Quick	S	Godfrey Lewis	MB
Steve Burgoyne	BR	George Woodhouse	WS	Robin Lewis	BRE
Jean Flynn	C	Three Star Master		Mike Reed	CAR
Ian Grove	S	Monica Dewsberry	MG	Paul Smith	BRE
Ellen Gwynne-John	CBY	Alan Heath	PC	Regional Master	
Rosemary Hathaway	T	Wendy Jenkins	WS	Liz Crockford	T
Iris Jarman	NT	Megan Jones	WS	Huw Jones	S
Michael Jones	BRE	June Owen	GA	Chris Morley	CAR
Eric Joseph	R	Una Thomas	WS	Debbie Richards	MG
Mark Laming	CN	Jacqueline Williams	S	Christine Smith	S
Martin Ley	S	Leighton Williams	AG	Sharon Winter	C
Gerry Morris	L	Four Star Master		Premier Regional Master	
Janet Richards	P	Gwen Davies	CD	H John Evans	MG
Penney Saunders	R	Gladys Griffiths	L	Nick Huggett	C
George Williams	GA	Jack McCombie	CRI	National Master	
One Star Master		Stan Newman	WS	Bryan Clarkson	CN
Jane Allen	WS	Marion Stephenson	VOG	Ian Haston	H
David Batterley	AA	Five Star Master		Peter Milewski	H
Jean Brooks	MG	Tony Mitchell	NP	Jennifer Wardell	CAR
Margaret Day	T	Lena Morgan	S	Premier National Master	
Catherine Dudlyke	L	Martin Morris	NP	Dave Barwood	MG
Derek Earle	MER	Pat Radway	BR	Sylvia Davies	S
Teresa Goss	C	Ron Thompson	GA	Lyn Lamb	A
Jayne Greatrex	PN	Mildred Trigg-Knight	P	Eleanor Price	S
Tony Hall	SU	Tournament Master		Barry Wennell	LD
Kath Jenkins	OH	Chris Bickel	MB	Beth Wennell	LD
Neil Jenkins	OH	Chris Bradshaw	MER	Jill Williams	R
Averil Jones	PC	Margaret Church	MB	Life Master	
Margaret Ann Jones	WS			Olwen Brown	F
Jupp Korsten	D			Sian Ellis	PW
Doris Powell	GA	Premier Master		Pat Fielding	NT
Michael Rowland	CN	Christine Bowman	PV	Sandra James	R
Lona Thomas	BRE	June Broeders	W	Betty Lewis	BV
Ann Walters	R	Betty Brookes	A	Beryl Warner	H
Irene Warlow	T	Kate Craven	MB	Lucy Williams	CR
Pat Williams	NT	Sid Craven	MB	Senior Life Master	
Two Star Master		Christine Forbes	BRE	Ann Fox	BR
Keith Bellamy	MG	Carol James	PN	Eric Hartland	H
Roy Dickinson	WS	Anne Johns	PN	Diana Jones	BR
Vida Halford	PC	Mair Jones	A	Colin Nash	S

East Wales Congress (Cwmbran)

13th & 14th February 2010

The brochure and entry form are now available on the website, or from Irene Thomas (Tel. 01446 407734, email r.h.thomas@ntlworld.com).

Wales are at home to Scotland at rugby that weekend so we recommend early reservation of accommodation. **Please note the early payment discount:** entry fee £160 per team, £10 reduction for early payment received prior to 5th February.



Promotions from 8th June to 2nd December 2009

Local Master	Wendy Walker	CN	Two Star Master		
David Hill	GA	County Master	Joan Bakewell	PW	
Christopher Rawlings	P	Judy Collins	PN	Patrick Llewellyn	Y
Cecilia Rossiter	H	Heather Cummins	CAS	David Nicholls	WS
Club Master	Jeremy Dawes	CAS	Premier Master		
Hilary Davis	CD	Anne Ellis	CN	Anne E Hughes	PR
Dan Gordon	R	Jennifer Harris	CD	Peter Jenkins	P
Yvonne Greenleaf	S	Marion Higon	CBY	Sandra Helen Jenkins	P
George Kinchington	LP	Suppiah Navaratnam	W	George Novak	CAS
Stella Miller	MG	Master	Linda Powell	C	
Barbara Roberts	R	Mary Fletcher	PT	John Raymond	MG
Myfanwy Rose	CD	David Everett	Y	Rod Sheard	W
Arnold Sandrey	MG	Roger Goodwin	CD	Ron Thompson	GA
Ann Scott	PR	Philip Hawkins	C	Regional Master	
Margaret Worthington	CBY	Gill Howells	CD	Richard Stedman	WS
Area Master	Pauline Rhodes	CD	Gloria Walters	H	
Clive Case	GA	Keith Vincent	S	Premier Regional Master	
Magda Corser	A	Gay Young	BEN	Judith Graham-Jones	H
Gillian Joel	A	Advanced Master	Pat Mullally	CN	
Anna Levi	CN	Malcolm Frieze	GA	David Spalding	CN
Olwen Parry	CN	Isabel Good	C	National Master	
Caroline Stephenson	C	Desmonde Jefferies	NP	Kay Dyer	BV
Anthony Stevens	NP	Tony Mason	WS	Margaret Morris	MON
Liz Taylor	MER	Linda Miles	S	Premier National Master	
District Master	Stella Pink	RY	Jane Brook	BV	
Jill Birchall	CBY	Ed Robertson	GA	Peter Milewski	H
Tom Birchall	CBY	Marion Shewell	AR	Brian Schofield	Y
Pam Ellis	A	David Stevens	CN	Colin Thomas	PT
Phil Gould	RY	Geoff Tremlett	L	Lavinia Thomas	PT
Jean Hellier	GA	Rosemarie Yates	GA	Life Master	
Neville Layhe	W	One Star Master	Frances Williams	L	
Jean Morgan	MER	Don Bell	R	Senior Life Master	
Alan Pearce	GA	Steve Burgoyne	BR	John Cox	S
Kath Pratt	CAS	Ian Grove	S	Grand Master	
Martin Rich	CAS	Pat Harris	GA	Laura Woodruff	BR
Debbie Rosevear	OH	Angela Roberts	WS		

Master Point of View

We had so many promotions to include, there wasn't room for my usual screed. So Master Point of View has been held over till the next issue.

There is, however, just room for me to congratulate you all and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Noelle



Llangollen



There was a disappointing number of tables for the Llangollen Congress. One reason could be that the organisers had moved house and there was some confusion about where to send entries. It is all the more disappointing because Llangollen has been a favourite venue of players for many, many years.

Those who did go fought as hard as ever, and it was good to see a repeat win for last year's Welsh team of Filip Kurbalija, Paul Denning, Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff. They had won before going into the final, being more than 20 VPs ahead. In fact, they won all of their last ten matches! Second and Third were teams from Merseyside.

The first three teams were:

1. Filip Kurbalija, Paul Denning, Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff (216 VPs)
2. David Stevenson, Ted Reveley, Bill Niccoll and John Gladders (177 VPs)
3. Dave Keen, Jean Keen, Peter Foster and Neil Fellows (174 VPs)

Congratulations to our Welsh team



Around the Ash Bucket

Those of you who remember the days when I used to produce the Newsletter, a task now gratefully surrendered to Jill Knight, may have been wondering how our livestock have been faring since I last penned a few words to fill a space. If not, just skip to Page 20.

We don't seem to have made much progress with the house – insufficient funds, as the banks used to say when they returned a cheque – but there has been a significant change in the outdoor inhabitants. Andy, my daft, beloved horse, has moved on to pastures new with a lovely young man who has the time to ride him and, moreover, is tall enough to look him in the eye. I don't think I've ever experienced a more heart-breaking farewell; but Josh (the young man) sends me regular updates. I miss my boy, but I don't miss the mucking-out, especially at this time of year.

Chickens have come and chickens have gone, mainly over the back wall. Unfortunately the drop on the other side is twice the size, so having made their escape, they can't fly high enough to make the return journey. I hope someone is enjoying the eggs, rather than the hens. The aptly named Vinny, our handsome Welsummer cockerel, fell foul of the new pair of geese, Edward and Mrs Simpson, and is now roosting in heaven. He was succeeded by Jasper, an almost equally beautiful Blue Araucana. Jasper immediately impregnated one of the hens; and in short order impregnated his daughter, who went on to lay pretty little blue eggs. He too has gone over the wall – at least, we hope he has, for one morning he was simply no longer there. So no more Easter chicks for us. It's probably for the best: TomTom (the cat) ate the last two.

Our most popular new resident is Cornelia, a rather terrifying nanny-goat who is actually very timid. She has eaten all the ivy and brambles, but eschews the nettles unless we've uprooted them first, which is a nuisance. She often comes into the kitchen and stands by the vegetable rack or the fruit bowl, according to her gastronomic preference of the day. Jon has taught her to spit the stone out when she eats plums. And she does love a doughnut.

Information page (Please mark changes and corrections in your copy of the current Journal)

Item	Page	Details
WBU Officers	3	As you will know by now, the Magazine Editor is Jill Knight, email Polly64335@aol.com , Tel. 01248 853033.
East Wales Bridge Association	4	Website is now at: http://www.bridgewebs.com/eastwales/home.html
West Wales ATO	4	Jennifer Wardell's telephone number is 01267 230561
(Archway) Chepstow Bridge Club	5	New contact: Peter Smith, Tel. 01291 627599, email pjsmith17@hotmail.co.uk
Old Hall Bridge Club	5	Start time has changed to 7.00
Sully Bridge Club	6	New contact: Sean Macdougall, 35 Trem y Don, Barry CF62 6QJ
Bellech Bridge Club	7	Website: www.benllechbridgeclub.org.uk
Calendar	66	The Senior Camrose is to be held in Edinburgh, not Oxford, and is scheduled for the weekend of 28 th -30 th May 2010.
Calendar	66	The dates of the Warren Buffet Cup have changed to 13 th -16 th September 2010.
Calendar	67	Commonwealth Nations Tournament: 24 th -29 th October 2010

Top Twenty in John Hockey Trophy (most points registered in one year) as 1st December 2009

Filip Kurbalija	85	Beth Wennell	71	John J Evans	54
Dave Barwood	80	Barry Wennell	71	Steve Webb	51
Peter Goodman	80	Wendy Williams	68	John Salisbury	49
Barry Jones	77	Tony Ratcliff	68	Paddy Murphy	48
Peter Milewski	75	Gwynne Maddox	65	Graham Jones	48
Val Kennewell	73	Steve Kennewell	59	Irene Thomas	44
Colin Nash	72	Patrick Jourdain	56		

Neville's contact details:

Neville Richards, Chief Executive
Welsh Bridge Union, Meadow View, Llanddewi,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 6SE

Telephone: 01597 850050/05602 941492

Email: neville@wbu.org.uk



South Walians who were wondering what's become of Andrew Scott, erstwhile Perry partner of Liam Sheridan and irregular player in the Cardiff League, may rest easy.



He's alive and well, and apparently living on an industrial estate in Margam.

Sincerest thanks to all the people who have contributed to this Newsletter. Your help is VERY much appreciated.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions (constructive ones, please!) for the Newsletter, please contact me, Polly64335@aol.com, or telephone 01248 853033. I welcome contributions: information, Bridge hands, letters, Bridge tales etc.

Jill Knight